CLAIMS:

1.   An external defibrillator selectably usable in one of a therapy mode and a training mode, when in the training mode, having a plurality of training state notifications, and adapted for electrical coupling with an electrode arrangeable on a release liner, the electrode electrically conductive and configured for placement on a subject, comprising:

an energy source;

an electrode interface responsive to the electrode;

an energy delivery system operable to selectively deliver electrical energy from the energy source to the electrode via the electrode interface;

a state identifier, identifying, when the electrode is electrically coupled to the electrode interface, a degree of electrical connectivity along an electrical path including the electrode;

a controller, operative in the training mode, prior to placement of the electrode on the subject, to advance the external defibrillator from a first training state to a second training state when the state identifier identifies a predetermined degree of electrical conductivity along the electrical path; and

a user interface, operative in the training mode to issue a training state notification indicating that the external defibrillator has advanced from the first training state to the second training state.

2.   The external defibrillator according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined degree of electrical conductivity comprises an impedance level.

3.   The external defibrillator according to claim 2, wherein the impedance level indicates that the electrode was removed from the release liner.

4.   The external defibrillator according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined degree of electrical conductivity indicates that the electrode was removed from a package containing the electrodes attached to the release liner.

5.   The external defibrillator according to c laim 1, wherein the training state notification comprises one of a voice message and a visual prompt.

6.   The external defibrillator according to c laim 5, wherein the voice message comprises one of a message instructing a user to remove the electrode from the release liner and a message instructing a user to place the electrode on a training apparatus.

7. The external defibrillator according to claim 1, wherein selection of the training mode is based on identification of the electrical coupling of the external defibrillator with a training electrode.

8. The external defibrillator according to claim 7, wherein the training electrode comprises:

a conductive attachment layer; and

a conductive metal layer in communication with the conductive attachment layer, the conductive metal layer having a void therein that provides a nonconductive region within the conductive metal layer.

9.   The external defibrillator according to c laim 8, wherein the electrical path comprises a path through the conductive attachment layer and the release liner.

10.   The external defibrillator according to c laim 7, wherein the identification of the training electrode is based on an impedance asso ciated with the training electrode.

11.   The external defibrillator according to c laim 10, wherein the impedance level of the training electrode is based on a resistance value of a resistor coupled in series with the training electrode.

12.   The external defibrillator according to c laim 7, wherein when the training electrode is attached, the external defibrillator is not operable in the therapy mode.

13.   The external defibrillator according to claim 1, wherein the subject comprises a human being in the therapy mode, and the subject comprises a training apparatus in the training mode.

14.   The external defibrillator according to claim 13, wherein the training apparatus comprises:
       a layer having an electrode attachment region defining an area sized to receive the electrode;
       a signal conductor disposed proximate the electrode attachment region, the signal conductor operable to provide communication between the electrode and the external defibrillator when the electrode is disposed on the electrode attachment region; and
       a two-dimensional representation of a subject having the electrode attachment region arranged thereon in a manner that defines a preferred placement area of the electrode on the subject.

15.   A method for training a user to operate an external defibrillator, comprising:
       providing an external defibrillator selectably usable in one of a therapy mode and a training mode, the external defibrillator comprising:
       an energy source;
       an electrode interface responsive to an electrode, the electrode arrangeable on a release liner and configured for placement on a subject; and
       an energy delivery system operable to selectively deliver electrical energy from the energy source to the electrode via the electrode interface;
          when the electrode is coupled to the electrode interface, receiving an input signal from the electrode, prior to placement of the electrode on the subject;
          based on the input signal, identifying a degree of electrical connectivity along an electrical path including the electrode;
          based on the determined degree of electrical conductivity, advancing the external defibrillator from a first training state to a second training state and
          issuing a training state notification indicating advancement from the first training state to the second training state.

16. A method for performing defibrillator training comprising the steps of:

providing an automatic external defibrillator training device;

providing a pair of training electrodes in electrical communication with said training device;

sensing an impedance between said pair of training electrodes; and

advancing a training rescue based on said sensed impedance.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of changing an operational mode of said automatic external defibrillator to a training mode based on said sensing step.

18. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:

providing a defibrillator training apparatus with depictions of the proper position of each of said training electrodes and wherein said depictions are electrically coupled; and

connecting said pair of training electrodes to said depictions.